

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1 (Currently amended). An original transport apparatus automatically taking up one or more originals one sheet at a time from a loading tray where it or they is or are loaded in one or more original trays and transporting said sheet same toward one or more a transport path paths, wherein said apparatus comprising:

a tray for loading said originals, the tray being inclined downward and having a lower tip region;

one or more an outer casing member members is or are arranged at one or more locations above one or more said lower tip region regions of at least one of the original tray or trays which is arranged so as to be inclined downward;

a first shaft positioned perpendicular to a direction of sheet transport;

at least one of the said outer casing member or members is disposed so as to permit opening and closing about said first shaft one or more shafts arranged in one or more directions perpendicular to one or more directions of transport of at least one of the original or originals;

one or more a stopper member members positioned in the lower tip region of the tray against which the originals can abut and align prior to transport; and

one or more an engagement piece pieces are disposed in at at least one of the outer casing member or members on a second shaft positioned perpendicular to the direction of sheet transport so as to permit respectively independent pivotal displacement thereof in pivoting fashion about one or more shafts arranged in one or more directions perpendicular to at least one of the original transport direction or directions;

at least one of the stopper member or members causes at least one causing a lead edge of said sheet at least one of the original or originals loaded in at least one of the original tray or trays to stop at at least one a prescribed location;

at least one of the said engagement piece or pieces being capable of engaging engages with at least one of the stopper member or members;

wherein, when at least one of the outer casing member or members is in at least one closed state and the apparatus is in at least one an original takeup standby state, engagement of at least one of the stopper member or members by at least one of the engagement piece or pieces causes the at least one stopper member to be retained in a position state in which the at least one stopper member stops at least one of the lead edge or edges of at least one of the sheet original or originals at at least one of the prescribed location or locations, thereby constraining at least one location of at least one of the lead edge at the prescribed location or edges of at least one of the original or originals and preventing entry of the sheet at least one of the original or originals into at least one of the transport path or paths; and

wherein, when at least one of the outer casing member or members is in at least one of the closed state or states and takeup of the sheet at least one of the original or originals is proceeding, at least one of the engagement piece or pieces is displaced in pivoting fashion, thereby disengaging engagement between the at least one engagement piece and at least one of the stopper member or members, permitting pivoting displacement of the at least one stopper member and allowing transport of the sheet at least one of the original or originals.

2 (Currently amended). An original transport apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising ~~wherein~~:

~~at least one end of at least one~~ an arm member located and pivotally is supported at a first end within by at least one of the outer casing member or members so as to permit displacement in pivoting fashion; and

a third shaft at a second end of the arm member, to which at least one shaft of at least one of the stopper member or members is pivotally secured to at least one other end of at least one of the arm member or members.

3 (Currently amended). An original transport apparatus according to claim 2 wherein:

when, during the course of closing at least one of the outer casing member or members which had at least immediately prior thereto been in at least one from an open state, at least one bottom region of at least one of the stopper member or members which is in at least one engaged

~~state with at least one of the engagement piece or pieces abuts and is pressed upward by the sheet in the tray at least one of the original or originals loaded in at least one of the original tray or trays, this causes at least one of the other end or ends of at least one of thereby causing the second end of the arm member or members to be displaced upward in pivoting fashion about the first end, in accompaniment to which at least one of the stopper member or members moves upward in such fashion as to cause it to be contained within at least one of the outer casing member or members.~~

4 (Currently amended). An original transport apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising wherein:

~~— at least one a lifting piece integrally connected to the arm member for lifting at least one of the engagement piece or pieces upward is integrally provided at at least one of the arm member or members; and~~

~~wherein, when, during the course of closing at least one of the outer casing member or members from the which had at least immediately prior thereto been in at least one open state, at least one bottom region of at least one of the stopper member or members which is in at least one engaged state with at least one of the engagement piece or pieces abuts and is pressed upward by at least one of the sheet in the tray original or originals loaded in at least one of the original tray or trays, this causes at least one of the other end or ends of at least one of thereby causing the second end of the arm member or members to be displaced upward in pivoting fashion around the first end, in accompaniment to which at least one of the stopper member or members moves upward, and at least one of the lifting piece or pieces moves upward so as to further lift upward at least one of the engagement piece or pieces and thereby disengage engagement between at least one of the stopper member or members and at least one of the engagement piece or pieces.~~

5 (Withdrawn). An original transport apparatus according to claim 3 or 4 wherein:

at least one of the outer casing member or members is provided with at least one guide component causing at least one of the stopper member or members to be displaced in pivoting

fashion such that it is raised upward when at least one of the arm member or members is displaced in pivoting fashion such that it subtends not less than at least one preestablished angle.

6 (Withdrawn). An original transport apparatus according to claim 3 or 4 wherein:

at least one of the outer casing member or members is provided with at least one guide component causing at least one of the stopper member or members to be displaced in pivoting fashion such that it is raised upward when at least one of the arm member or members is displaced in pivoting fashion such that it subtends not less than at least one preestablished angle;

at least one of the guide component or components is at least one guide surface formed at at least one top inside wall region of at least one of the outer casing member or members; and

at least one top region of at least one of the stopper member or members which has moved upward abuts at least one of the guide surface or surfaces and slides therealong so as to cause at least one of the stopper member or members to be displaced in pivoting fashion such that it is raised upward.

7 (Currently amended). An original transport apparatus automatically taking up one or more originals one sheet at a time from a loading tray ~~where it or they is or are loaded in one or more original trays and transporting said sheet same toward one or more a transport path paths,~~ wherein said apparatus comprising:

a tray for loading said originals, the tray being inclined downward and having a lower tip region;

~~one or more an outer casing member members is or are arranged at one or more locations above one or more said lower tip region regions of at least one of the original tray or trays which is arranged so as to be inclined downward;~~

a first shaft positioned perpendicular to a direction of sheet transport;

~~at least one of the said outer casing member or members is disposed so as to permit opening and closing about said first shaft one or more shafts arranged in one or more directions perpendicular to one or more directions of transport of at least one of the original or originals;~~

~~one or more a stopper member members~~ positioned in the lower tip region of the tray against which the originals can abut and align prior to transport; and

~~one or more an engagement piece pieces~~ are disposed in at least one of the outer casing member or members on a second shaft positioned perpendicular to the direction of sheet transport so as to permit respectively independent pivotal displacement thereof in pivoting fashion about one or more shafts arranged in one or more directions perpendicular to at least one of the original transport direction or directions;

at least one of the stopper member or members causes at least one causing a lead edge of said sheet at least one of the original or originals loaded in at least one of the original tray or trays to stop at at least one a prescribed location;

at least one of the engagement piece or pieces engages being capable of engaging with at least one of the stopper member or members;

~~one or more a pickup arm arms~~ is or are disposed in at least one of the outer casing member or members so as to permit displacement in pivoting fashion about one or more shafts arranged in one or more directions perpendicular to at least one of the original transport direction or directions;

at least one of the said pickup arm or arms has at least one having a pickup roller for taking up at least one of the one or more originals one said sheet at a time from where it or they is or are loaded in at least one of the original tray or trays;

wherein, when at least one of the outer casing member or members is in at least one closed state and the apparatus is in at least one an original takeup standby state, the fact that at least one of the pickup roller or rollers is positioned in at least one an upper region within at least one of the outer casing member or members causes engagement to be retained between at least one of the stopper member or members and at least one of the engagement piece or pieces to be retained, constraining at least one a location of at least one of the lead edge or edges of said sheet at least one of the original or originals and preventing entry of said sheet at least one of the original or originals into at least one of the transport path or paths; and

wherein, when at least one of the outer casing member or members is in at least one of the closed state or states and takeup of said sheet at least one of the original or originals is

proceeding, ~~at least one of the pickup arm or arms is displaced downward in pivoting fashion so as to cause at least one of the pickup roller or rollers to move downward and away from at least one of the outer casing member or members so as to not be hidden thereby, and in linked fashion with respect to this pivoting~~ the downward displacement of the pickup arm, at least one of the engagement piece ~~or pieces~~ is displaced in pivoting fashion, thereby disengaging engagement between the ~~at least one engagement piece and at least one of the stopper member or members,~~ permitting pivoting displacement of the ~~at least one stopper member~~ and allowing transport of said sheet ~~at least one of the original or originals.~~

8 (Withdrawn). An original transport apparatus according to claim 7 wherein at least one of the pickup arm or arms has:

one or more first standby positions, at which at least one of the pickup arm or arms and at least one of the engagement piece or pieces are not engaged, but at which at least one of the engagement piece or pieces and at least one of the stopper member or members are engaged; and

one or more second standby positions, between at least one of the first standby position or positions and at least one of the position or positions occupied when takeup of at least one of the original or originals is proceeding and at least one of the pickup roller or rollers has moved downward and away from at least one of the outer casing member or members so as to not be hidden thereby, at which at least one of the pickup arm or arms and at least one of the engagement piece or pieces are engaged, but at which at least one of the engagement piece or pieces and at least one of the stopper member or members are disengaged;

one or more retaining members being provided at at least one of the outer casing member or members; and

at least one of the retaining member or members retaining at least one of the pickup arm or arms when at least one of the second standby position or positions is occupied.

9 (Withdrawn). An original transport apparatus according to claim 8 wherein:

at least one of the retaining member or members comprises at least one elastically deformable plate spring provided at at least one inside wall of at least one of the outer casing

member or members;

the at least one retaining member abutting at least one pivot tip region of at least one of the pickup arm or arms, retaining the at least one pickup arm, when the at least one pickup arm is displaced in pivoting fashion at least as far as at least one of the second standby position or positions.

10 (Withdrawn). An original transport apparatus according to claim 8 wherein:

at least one of the retaining member or members comprises at least one pivot projection provided at at least one basal side, about which pivoting occurs, of at least one of the pickup roller or rollers, and at least one pivot constraining rod provided at at least one apparatus main body and constraining pivoting of at least one of the pivot projection or projections;

at least one of the pivot projection or projections abutting at least one of the pivot constraining rod or rods, retaining the at least one pickup arm, when the at least one pickup arm is displaced in pivoting fashion at least as far as at least one of the second standby position or positions.

11 (Withdrawn). An original transport apparatus according to claim 8 further comprising:

one or more drive control means driving at least one of the pickup arm or arms so as to displace it in pivoting fashion;

at least one of the drive control means for driving at least one of the pickup arm or arms so as to cause it to be displaced in pivoting fashion from at least one of the first standby position or positions to at least one of the second standby position or positions when at least one of the outer casing member or members which had at least immediately prior thereto been in at least one closed state is opened.